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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9348
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0254
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 4000
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2270
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0273
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0317
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0946
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0018
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 3804
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 4420
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0298
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

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SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECON](#) [ELAB](#) [ETRD](#) [KIPR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SOCI](#) [UZ](#)
SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN GSP DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: A. A) TASHKENT 239
[1](#)B. B) TASHKENT 234
[1](#)C. C) STATE 10115

[1](#)1. (SBU) Over the past five weeks, post has demarched Uzbek officials from relevant ministries on the concerns raised ref [1](#)C. We have informed Uzbek officials in the Ministries of Foreign Economic Relations and Foreign Affairs, as well as in the Republican Copyright Agency, of the impending June 30 deadline for a recommendation by U.S. authorities on disposition of outstanding petitions related the the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program's application to Uzbekistan.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection

[1](#)2. (SBU) On IPR protection, Uzbek officials have consistently underscored their objections to removing the Uzbek reservation to Berne Convention Article 18 at this time. They have further narrowed the precise grounds of their objections: the Copyright Agency maintains that Article 18 would require Uzbekistan to destroy cultural products that might be subject retroactively to copyright protections (e.g., Soviet era works derived from protected Western works). The Copyright Agency also maintains that Uzbekistan plans to pursue WTO membership and will, as a matter of course, eventually withdraw its reservation.

[1](#)3. (SBU) As reported ref A, the Uzbeks have made modest progress on IPR enforcement under the terms of an IPR law passed in 2006.

Cotton sector child labor

[1](#)4. (SBU) On the child labor petition, both UNICEF and the ILO operate in Uzbekistan and have presented post with a mixed picture. On the one hand, both organizations tell us the problem does not appear to be as widespread as some European activists have recently claimed (ref B). On the other hand,

UNICEF believes that the use of child labor has increased as a direct result of cotton sector market reforms (note: reforms advocated by international and local specialists. End note). This explanation was echoed recently by an AMCIT involved in cotton ginning and seed production here. Both UNICEF and ILO share our assessment that the Uzbeks would be well advised to ratify ILO 182 and to generally increase transparency on compliance with their international commitments. UNICEF tells us that the Uzbek Government recently approached both ILO and it for advice on dealing with the growing international attention on this issue. UNICEF considers this significant and has offered the GOU recommendations, which the UNICEF Country Director tells us the Uzbek Government is evaluating.

15. (SBU) Post advises Washington agencies to solicit the views of the AMCIT executive director of the International Cotton Advisory Council, a public international organization to which both Uzbekistan and the U.S. belong. ICAC's website is www.icac.org, and their secretariat can be reached at secretariat@icac.org or 202-463-6660.

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Post recommendations

16. (SBU) In ref A (Special 301 report), post recommended that GSP privileges not be withdrawn. We repeat that recommendation. Ref A focused on IPR concerns. Uzbek arguments aside, the GOU is making modest progress. Perhaps significantly, a senior Uzbek cleric told us recently how he actually raised IPR protection in one of his sermons at Tashkent's central mosque. He was upset that his own books

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were being reproduced illegally. He noted that several senior Government officials were in attendance and that a well-publicized raid on a music store chain was conducted shortly thereafter. Though not your run-of-the-mill story, it follows closely the experience of many other countries: when a local demand for protection of domestic works arises, governments have a tendency to begin enforcing rights of foreign producers as well.

17. (SBU) Post recommendation, continued: The child labor contentions seem to us insufficiently developed to pursue through the GSP petition process at this time. We recommend that this petition be extended for another year.
NORLAND